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FIRST GDR COLD-STORAGE PLANT

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The first standard cold-storage plant in the GDR was finished on 31 July 1953 in Dresden, on the grounds of the slaughterhouse, after a construction period of about a year. Three hundred construction workers from the local construction enterprises, under the direction of construction manager Helmut Schuster, worked with all their strength to complete this project. The workers received a bonus of 5,000 Deutsche marks from the Ministry of Labor for their exemplary performance in a competition, held during the last quarter of 1952. At the conclusion of another competition in June 1953, they received 10,500 Deutsche marks.

The ramp of the cold-storage plant, which is 53 meters long, was built for direct delivery to and from the railroad siding. Since 19 July 1953, many thousands of barrels of pork lard and tallow are arriving daily from the USSR, and are put into a large hall. Two 2.5-ton elevators and two 1.5-ton elevators dispatch the barrels to the five floors above, where they are rolled by worker into the precooled freezing rooms. The temperature is maintained at 2-4 degrees [centigrade] in these rooms. The first USSR deliveries of fat are already stored. These products will be distributed by the DEZ (Deutsche Handelszentrale, German Trade Center) to HO (Handelsorganisationen, Free Trade Organizations), consumer cooperatives, and retail trade stores.

Besides the cold-storage rooms, there are quick-freezing rooms in which fresh meat is frozen in a single day. The plant manager, Martin Fiedler, stated that previously this had required 5-6 days. The freezing tunnel is in the heart of the cold-storage plant. In it, fresh meat is frozen solid in a short time at a temperature of 25-30 degrees below zero [centigrade]. This guarantees that the meat will keep for a long time.

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- 1 -